Railway Expenditure on Publicity/ Advertisement

799. SHRI O. RAJA GOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent during the current financial year as on 10th November, 1996 on publicity/advertisement by Government on various railway schemes and projects; and

(b) the total budget allocation for this purpose made in the current rail budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total amount spent on publicity/advertisement by Railways on various railway schemes and projects during the current financial year is Rs. 3,32,89,633 approx.

(b) Railways have no separate budget earmarked for publicity of new projects/ schemes. Such expenditures incurred are debited to project estimates within their overall budget.

Laying of additional lines between Mumbai and Thane

800. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the work of laying of two additional Railway lines in the Central Railways between Mumbai (C.S.T.) and Thane;

(b) if the work has not started, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The project of laying 5th and 6th lines from Kurla to Bhandup (phase I of Kurla-Thane project) was approved in December 1995 in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. The estimate has already been sanctioned and the work has been taken up. The poject is likely to be completed during 1998-99. The proposal for 5th and 6th line from Bhandup to Tane (Phase II of Kurla-Thane project) is in progress. The Engineering feasiblity studies of laying additional track between Mumbai C.S.T. and Thane has been awarded to M/s. RITES.

Revival plan for HFC and FCI

801. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of revival plan for HFC and FCI plants approved by the Cabinet in April, 1995;

(b) whether any funding source could be located so far by the Government;

(c) if so, the likely date of commencement of the revival plan of each unit; and

(d) if not, whether the profit making fertilizer companies like IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NFL etc. are being asked to take over some units, if not, the reason therefor and the alternative to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) In order to restore the financial health of the two sick fertilizer manufacturing Public Sector Undertakings namely, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), the Government had approved in principle a revival package in April, 1995 which envisaged the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI; and Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup units of HFC, entailing a fresh investment of Rs. 2201.13 crore at 1994 price levels, apart from capital restruncturing and financial reliefs to the undertakings. The funding arrangement for these packages could not be tied up. An expert Group was thereafter constituted to reformulate the revival packages. The Group appointed a Consultancy organisation to undertake an independent appraisal of the technical viability of the revival packages from the standpoint of funding by the Financial Institutions. The consultancy organisation has since submitted its report.

(c) Pending tie up of the funding arrangement, it is not possible to indicate the likely date of commencement of the revival packages in respect of FCI and HFC. Any final decision on its implementation would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi judicial authority.